

Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 BNDD-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-15 AID-20 DODE-00 IGA-02 H-02 AGR-20

L-03 MED-03 HEW-08 RSR-01 /159 W

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R 311200 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4341

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION PLAN FOR LAOS

REF: (A) STATE 092080

(B) VIENTIANE 1035

(C) VIENZTANE A-22, 2/21/73

(D) STATE 045465

(E) STATE 059888

(F) TOAID A-224

SUMMARY: THIS CABLE RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS RAISED
REF A CONCERNING NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION PLAN
(NCAP) FOR LAOS. QUESTIONS AND INFORMATION PRO-
VIDED HEREIN RELATE TO TREATMENT/ REHABILITATION
PLANS, AIR TRAFFIC INTERDICTION, MONITORING ACETIC
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ANHYDRIDE IMPORTS AND AERIAL SURVEY. END SUMMARY.

1. MISSION ACKNOWLEDGES WASHINGTON DELAY IN APPROVAL FY 1974 TRAINING AND MULTI-MEDIA EXHIBIT SECTIONS OF UPDATED NCAP, BUT IS PERPLEXED BY PARA 2, REF A WHICH INDICATES APPROVAL OF LAO TREATMENT/REHABILITATION PROGRAM ALSO BEING DELAYED. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF AID PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES IS THAT ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS CONSTITUTES LAST LINK IN AID/W APPROVAL PROCESS FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION. FUNDING LEVELS FOR NCAP WERE APPROVED (REF D) AND FUNDS ALLOCATED (REF E), EXCLUDING ONLY FUNDS FOR FY 1974 TRAINING. ON BASIS THIS ALLOTMENT WE HAVE PROCEEDED WITH PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION TREATMENT/REHABILITATION SECTION OF NCAP, E. G., ISSUANCE PIO'S FOR CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING NEW RLG NATIONAL DETOXIFICATION CENTER. PLANS FOR THIS CONSTRUCTION TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED DR. WESTERMEYER'S REPORT.

2. TEN COPIES DR. WESTERMEYER'S REPORT FORWARDED VIA REF F TO AID WASHINGTON. BELIEVE HIS REPORT, TOGETHER WITH DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON, WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS POSED BY SAODAP. MISSION, IN GENERAL, CONCURS WITH CONTENTS DR. WESTERMEYER REPORT. IT SUGGESTS MORE ECONOMICAL AND EFFECTIVE TREATMENT OBTAINABLE THROUGH REDUCTION OF EMPHASIS ON VIENTIANE IN-PATIENT PROGRAMS WHILE RESTRUCTURING VIENTIANE OUT-PATIENT PROGRAM AND INITIATING AN OUTREACH PROGRAM IN SUCH AREAS AS BAN HOUET SAI AND BAN XON (SITE 272). MISSION ENVISAGES CHANGE AS EVOLUTIONARY AND AT FIRST OUT-PATIENT PROGRAMS WILL BE THOROUGHLY TESTED ON PILOT BASIS. WE ARE CURRENTLY EXPLORING THE FEASIBILITY OF ADEQUATE CONTROL OF METHADONE FOR THE OUTREACH PROGRAM WHICH MUST BE ASSURED PRIOR TO INITIATION OF PROGRAM. ADEQUATE FOLLOW-UP AND OTHER PROCEDURES MUST ALSO BE WORKED OUT WITH CARE. EVENTUAL SCOPE OF CHANGES WILL DEPEND UPON EXPERIENCE OBTAINED IN PILOT STAGES.

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3. WITH REGARD TO PARA 3, REF A, OF PATIENTS TREATED, NINETY-EIGHT PERCENT HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED DETOXIFICATION REGIMEN. RECIDIVISM IS CURRENTLY EIGHTEEN PERCENT, BUT SIGNIFICANCE THIS FIGURE IS LIMITED, GIVEN SHORT TIME ELAPSED SINCE INAUGURATION OF PROGRAM.

4. MISSION CONTINUES ACTIVELY TO ENCOURAGE RLG ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS TO IMPROVE ALL ASPECTS OF AIR TRAFFIC INTERDICTION. ONE RECENT IMPROVEMENT, NOTED IN OUR MONTHLY REPORTS, IS THAT LAO NATIONAL POLICE AND LAO MILITARY POLICE HAVE BEEN GIVEN ACCESS TO ALL MILITARY AIRPORTS THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM. SUBSEQUENTLY, SEVERAL SEIZURES INVOLVING MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND ARREST OF MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN MADE. SUBJECT OF AIR SMUGGLING WAS TOPIC AT TRI- COUNTRY NARCOTICS CONFERENCE HELD LAST MONTH IN VIENTIANE.

5. ACETIC ANHYDRIDE WAS ALSO A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AT TRI- COUNTRY CONFERENCE AND IT WAS AGREED THAT ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES ARE PRESENTLY BEING UTILIZED TO MONITOR ITS IMPORTATION. BETTER INTELLIGENCE ON VARIOUS CHEMICALS NEEDED IN THE NARCOTICS PRODUCTION PROCESS IS ALSO BEING COMPILED AND EVALUATED.

THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE ESSO CHIEF CHEMIST RESIDING IN THAILAND, WE FIND THAT ONE POSSIBLE SOURCE CHEMICALS USED IN CONVERSION OPIUM INTO HEROIN COULD BE AUTOMOTIVE BRAKE FLUID. BRAKE FLUID CONSISTS OF 90 PERCENT HIGH BOILING POINT ALCOHOL WHICH IS ONE OF THE CHEMICALS USED IN THE CONVERSION PROCESS. MISSION INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITY THAT BRAKE FLUID MAY BE USED AS CHEMICAL SOURCE. OUR INITIAL INVESTIGATION ENTAILS COMPARING LEVELS OF IMPORTATION AGAINST ESTIMATED LEGITIMATE USAGE IN LAOS TO DETERMINE IF THEY ARE IN REASONABLE BALANCE. WASHINGTON MAY WANT OTHER MISSIONS CONCERNED WITH NARCOTICS CONTROL TO INVESTIGATE THEIR COUNTRIES' USAGE RATES.

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6. RE AERIAL SURVEY, MISSION CONTRACTING FOR SERVICES OF INDIVIDUAL TO ANALYZE FURTHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS FOR USE IN PLANNING NARCOTICS, AND OTHER, PROGRAMS. A SECOND AND MORE COMPREHENSIVE AERIAL SURVEY IS PLANNED FOR NEXT GROWING SEASON(OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER 1973 TO JANUARY 1974), WHICH WILL ENABLE US BETTER TO PLAN FUTURE AGRICULTURE REDIRECTION PROGRAMS AND TO PINPOINT LARGER AREAS OF OPIUM PRODUCTION FOR USE IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES. WE WILL ALSO COMPARE SECOND SURVEY WITH FIRST TO IDENTIFY CHANGES IN AREAS OF POPPY CULTIVATION. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR PROGRAM.

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